

### Amendments to the Claims:

1. **(Currently amended)** A trackball device comprising:  
a sphere including magnetic material;  
a support ~~for rotatably supporting the~~ configured to rotatably support said sphere;  
a rotation detector ~~for detecting~~ configured to detect rotation of ~~the said~~ sphere;  
a controller ~~for generating~~ configured to generate a specific output signal responsive to a signal from ~~the said~~ rotation detector; and  
an informer ~~for generating~~ including an electromagnet having a core with first and second ends, said informer being configured to generate auxiliary information responsive to rotating of ~~the said~~ sphere, the auxiliary information being based on the signal from ~~the controller. said~~ controller;  
wherein said support includes at least a first supporting member coupled to said first end of said core, a second supporting member coupled to said second end of said core, and a third supporting member independent of said core; and  
wherein said sphere is disposed in a magnetic flux circuit generated by said electromagnet, and said informer is operable to generate the auxiliary information by causing said electromagnet to generate a magnetic attractive force to influence said sphere.

Claims 2-4 **(Cancelled)**

5. **(Currently amended)** The trackball device of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein a surface material of ~~the said~~ first supporting member, ~~the said~~ second supporting member, and ~~the said~~ third supporting member is the same as a surface material of ~~the said~~ sphere.

6. **(Currently amended)** The trackball device of claim ~~3~~ 1, further comprising a first switch ~~operated~~ arranged to be depressed by depression of the said sphere in relation with the via ~~said~~ third supporting member, wherein ~~the said~~ controller detects a state of ~~the said~~ first switch.

7. **(Currently amended)** The trackball device of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said controller is operable to switch alternately a direction of the magnetic flux generated by the electromagnet is alternately switched.

Claims 8 and 9 **(Cancelled)**

10. **(Currently amended)** An input device comprising~~[[:]]~~  
a trackball device ~~including~~, and  
at least one switch disposed around said trackball device,  
wherein said trackball device comprises:  
a sphere including a magnetic material;  
a support for configured to rotatably supporting the support said sphere;  
a rotation detector for detecting configured to detect rotation of the said sphere;  
a controller for generating configured to generate a specific output signal  
responsive to a signal from ~~the said~~ rotation detector; and  
an informer for generating including an electromagnet having a core with first and  
second ends, said informer being configured to generate auxiliary information responsive to  
rotating of ~~the said~~ sphere, ~~the said~~ auxiliary information being based on the signal from ~~the said~~  
controller; and  
at least a second switch disposed around the trackball device, wherein said support  
includes at least a first supporting member coupled to said first end of said core, a second  
supporting member coupled to said second end of said core, and a third supporting member  
independent of said core; and

wherein said sphere is disposed in a magnetic flux circuit generated by said electromagnet, and said informer is operable to generate the auxiliary information by causing said electromagnet to generate a magnetic attractive force to influence said sphere.

11. **(Currently amended)** A vehicle comprising[[:]]  
a vehicle body having a vehicle cabin therein[[:]],  
a drive wheel supporting ~~the~~ said vehicle body[[:]], and  
a trackball device provided in ~~the~~ said vehicle cabin, ~~including:~~  
wherein said trackball device comprises:  
a sphere including magnetic material;  
a support ~~for~~ configured to rotatably supporting the support said sphere;  
a rotation detector ~~for detecting~~ configured to detect rotation of ~~the~~ said sphere;  
a first controller ~~for generating~~ configured to generate a specific output signal  
responsive to a signal from ~~the~~ said rotation detector; and  
an informer ~~for generating~~ including an electromagnet having a core with first and  
second ends, said informer being configured to generate auxiliary information responsive to  
rotating of the sphere, the auxiliary information being based on the signal from ~~the~~ said first  
controller[[:.]];  
wherein said support includes at least a first supporting member coupled to said first end  
of said core, a second supporting member coupled to said second end of said core, and a third  
supporting member independent of said core; and  
wherein said sphere is disposed in a magnetic flux circuit generated by said  
electromagnet, and said informer is operable to generate the auxiliary information by causing  
said electromagnet to generate a magnetic attractive force to influence said sphere.

12. **(Currently amended)** The vehicle of claim 11, further comprising:

a second controller ~~for receiving~~ configured to receive the signal from ~~the~~ said first controller; and

electronic equipment configured to be controlled by ~~the~~ said second controller.

13. **(Currently amended)** The vehicle of claim 11, wherein ~~the~~ said electronic equipment includes a display for displaying at least one of a pointer and a cursor, and rotation of ~~the~~ said sphere causes movement of at least one of ~~the~~ said pointer and ~~the~~ said cursor on ~~the~~ said display.

14. **(Currently amended)** The vehicle of claim 11, wherein ~~the~~ said trackball device is disposed in a central position of a full width of ~~the~~ said vehicle cabin.

15. **(Currently amended)** The vehicle of claim 11, further comprising two seats in a front portion of ~~the~~ said vehicle cabin, wherein ~~the~~ said trackball device is disposed between ~~the~~ said two seats.

16. **(New)** A trackball device comprising:  
a sphere including magnetic material;  
a support configured to rotatably support said sphere;  
a rotation detector configured to detect rotation of said sphere;  
a controller configured to generate a specific output signal responsive to a signal from said rotation detector;

an informer including an electromagnet, and being configured to generate auxiliary information responsive to rotating of said sphere, the auxiliary information being based on the signal from said controller; and

a permanent magnet configured to have a magnetic field that influences said sphere so as to force said support against said sphere;

wherein said sphere is disposed in a magnetic flux circuit generated by said electromagnet, and said informer is operable to generate the auxiliary information by causing said electromagnet to generate a magnetic attractive force to influence said sphere.

17. **(New)** The trackball device of claim 16, said permanent magnet is located so that a direction of magnetic lines generated by said permanent magnet coincides with a direction of magnetic lines generated by said electromagnet.

18. **(New)** The trackball device of claim 16, wherein said electromagnet has a core with first and second ends, said support includes at least a first supporting member coupled to said first end of said core, a second supporting member coupled to said second end of said core, and a third supporting member independent of said core.

19. **(New)** The trackball device of claim 18, wherein a surface material of said first supporting member, said second supporting member, and said third supporting member is the same as a surface material of said sphere.

20. **(New)** The trackball device of claim 18, further comprising a first switch arranged to be depressed by said sphere via said third supporting member, wherein said controller detects a state of said first switch.

21. **(New)** The trackball device of claim 16, wherein said controller is operable to switch alternately a direction of the magnetic flux generated by said electromagnet.

22. **(New)** An input device comprising  
a trackball device, and  
at least one switch disposed around said trackball device,

wherein said trackball device comprises:

- a sphere including magnetic material;

- a support configured to rotatably support said sphere;

- a rotation detector configured to detect rotation of said sphere;

- a controller configured to generate a specific output signal responsive to a signal from said rotation detector; and

- an informer including an electromagnet, and being configured to generate auxiliary information responsive to rotating of said sphere, the auxiliary information being based on the signal from said controller; and

- a permanent magnet configured to have a magnetic field that influences said sphere so as to force said support against said sphere;

- wherein said sphere is disposed in a magnetic flux circuit generated by said electromagnet, and said informer is operable to generate the auxiliary information by causing said electromagnet to generate a magnetic attractive force to influence said sphere.

23. (New) A vehicle comprising

- a vehicle body having a vehicle cabin therein,

- a drive wheel supporting said vehicle body, and

- a trackball device provided in said vehicle cabin,

wherein said trackball device comprises:

- a sphere including magnetic material;

- a support configured to rotatably support said sphere;

- a rotation detector configured to detect rotation of said sphere;

- a controller configured to generate a specific output signal responsive to a signal from said rotation detector; and

an informer including an electromagnet, and being configured to generate auxiliary information responsive to rotating of said sphere, the auxiliary information being based on the signal from said controller; and

a permanent magnet configured to have a magnetic field that influences said sphere so as to force said support against said sphere;

wherein said sphere is disposed in a magnetic flux circuit generated by the electromagnet, and said informer is operably to generate the auxiliary information by causing said electromagnet to generate a magnetic attractive force to influence said sphere.

24. **(New)** The vehicle of claim 23, further comprising:

a second controller for receiving the signal from said first controller; and  
electronic equipment controlled by said second controller.

25. **(New)** The vehicle of claim 23, wherein said electronic equipment includes a display for displaying at least one of a pointer and a cursor, and rotation of said sphere causes movement of at least one of said pointer and said cursor on said display.

26. **(New)** The vehicle of claim 23, wherein said trackball device is disposed in a central position of a full width of said vehicle cabin.

27. **(New)** The vehicle of claim 23, further comprising two seats in a front portion of said vehicle cabin, wherein said trackball device is disposed between said two seats.

28. **(New)** A trackball device comprising:

a sphere formed of one of martensite stainless steel and ferrite stainless steel;  
a support configured to rotatably support said sphere;  
a rotation detector configured to detect rotation of said sphere;

a controller configured to generate a specific output signal responsive to a signal from said rotation detector; and

an informer including an electromagnet, and being configured to generate auxiliary information responsive to rotating of said sphere, the auxiliary information being based on the signal from said controller;

wherein said sphere is disposed in a magnetic flux circuit generated by said electromagnet, and said informer is operable to generate the auxiliary information by causing said electromagnet to generate a magnetic attractive force to influence said sphere.